

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 17, 1999

Joshua Lederberg
President Emeritus
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021-6399

Dear Joshua:

Thank you for your letter regarding human pluripotent stem cell funding. I appreciate knowing your thoughts on this important matter and regret that I was unable to respond sooner.

Last November, I asked my National Bioethics Advisory Commission to undertake a thorough review of the ethical and medical considerations associated with human stem cell research. After much thought and deliberation, we determined that human stem cell technology's potential medical benefits are compelling and worthy of pursuit as long as the research is conducted according to the highest ethical standards. As you know, stem cell research has potential application for treating people with diabetes, heart disease, Parkinson's disease, cancer, and spinal cord injury. The NIH will be putting together guidelines to ensure that the cells are obtained in an ethically sound manner.

As we continue to address this complex issue, I am grateful for your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.